PRESIDENT: I am sorry, no.

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXXVII—DEBT HEADS—COINAGE ACCOUNT.

MR. A. LEKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: Sir, I move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 3,04,000 under Mint advances. This is intended for meeting the additional expenditure for the purchase of bullion required for minting about ten lakhs of small silver coins in order to remove the present shortage of small change. I request the House to sanction the grant.

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE AUDIT REPORT AND APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS OF 1116 M. E.

MR. A. LEKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audit Report and Appropriation Accounts of 1116 M. E.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, I wish to make a few observations on the Report of the Public Accounts Committee that has been presented to us for consideration. Unlike the Standing Finance Committee or any other committees constituted by Government for different purposes, this is the statutory body constituted under Rule 79 of the Travancore Legislative Rules for the purpose of dealing with the Audit Report and Appropriation Accounts of Government. Under these circumstances, it would be in the fitness of things if the Public Accounts Committee, which has the special privilege of having the Dewan as its Chairman is afforded sufficient opportunity to discharge its functions satisfactorily. Of late, it has almost become the practice to fix up the date of the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee in such a way as not to give sufficient convenience or time to the non-official members of the committee to study properly the Audit Report and Appropriation Accounts and be ready for a discussion. By the very nature of this document, it is difficult for a lay-man to understand it. On more occasions than one I have complained against this attitude of the authorities concerned. But Sir, I am constrained to observe that deserving attention has not yet been given to this aspect of the matter. It is really regrettable to note that the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee appointed for considering the Audit Report and Appropriation Accounts of 1117 M. E. was proposed to be held on the 5th Karkatakam, a day which was set apart for studying the voluminious budget for the next year. It would appear that the business of the Public Accounts Committee is being treated as an unimportant matter of ordinary routine. Sir, you are the custodian of the privileges of both the Houses of Legislature and I would therefore appeal to you to see that such things are not repeated at least in future.

PRESIDENT: I can fully understand the view of the honourable member. I wish to know whether he is making any motion to have this discussion adjourned till after the budget debate.

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